



## In This Issue

[\\$250 Medicare Checks](#)

[Year of Community Living](#)

[National Association of Area  
Agencies on Aging](#)

[Help With Medicare Costs](#)

[Apply for Medicare Online](#)

[Who Speaks for You?](#)

**Medicare.gov  
Has a New Look!**

And we're  
more user friendly  
than ever.  
Visit now!



## Will You Get a \$250 Check from Medicare?

President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law on March 23, 2010. Part of this new law includes a \$250 rebate for people who reach the Part D "doughnut hole."

If you enter the Part D "doughnut hole" this year, you will receive a one-time, \$250 rebate check if you are not already receiving Medicare Extra Help. These checks will begin mailing in mid-June, and will continue monthly throughout the year as beneficiaries enter the coverage gap. **Get the most up-to-date information about this and other upcoming changes at [www.healthreform.gov](http://www.healthreform.gov).**



## Housing Help for People with Disabilities

Thousands of Americans with disabilities will get rental help in 2010 under President Obama's new **Year of Community Living** program. The program provides \$40 million in HUD funds to help non-elderly people with disabilities live independently in their communities, rather than institutions.

Watch for more information in the coming months about how to get matched with a program in your state.

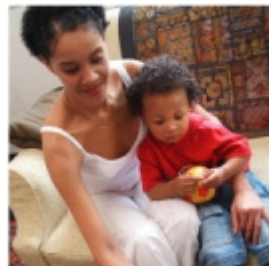


## National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

**The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)** is the leading voice on aging issues for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and a champion for Title VI Native American aging programs.

Through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, AAAs and Title VI programs provide services to help family and caregivers care for their loved ones at home for as long as possible. Visit [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org) for:

- Information about available services
- Help getting access to services
- Individual counseling, support groups, caregiver training
- Respite care
- Supplemental services, on a limited basis



## You May Qualify for Help With Medicare Costs

If your income is less than \$1,354 a month (\$1,821 if you're married and living together), you may qualify to get help paying your Medicare costs from one of these two programs: **Extra Help with Medicare Drug Plan Costs** or **Medicare Savings Programs**.

Applying for Extra Help automatically starts your application for Medicare Savings Programs, too. Depending on where you live, you may qualify even if your income is higher. Apply now for free at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).



## Apply for Medicare Online - Patty Duke Did!

Most people should start getting Medicare at age 65, even if you're not ready to retire. You should apply for Medicare within 4 months of turning 65. Now, you can apply right online!

As **Patty Duke will tell you**, applying online is easy, and it takes less than 10 minutes. What are you waiting for? Just visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and select the "Retirement/Medicare" link.



## Who Speaks When You're Sick?

If you were too ill to speak for yourself, who would you want to speak for you? An "**advance directive**" lets you put in writing the name of the person you trust to make your health care decisions.

The best time to prepare an advance directive is before you need one. Contact your local **Area Agency on Aging** or your state health department to learn how to set up an advance directive.

**Tell us what YOU care about!**  
**Email [caregiver\\_comments@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:caregiver_comments@cms.hhs.gov).**



---

**Visit [www.medicare.gov/caregivers](http://www.medicare.gov/caregivers) for the latest news and broadcasts.**  
**Not a subscriber? [Sign up here.](#)**

You're getting this message because you subscribed to get email updates from [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#).